



Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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expressing definitely the views it was designed to advance. This was one of the matters we threshed out while I was at Newnham. I was anxious to have contributions from Miss Clough's pen, but she maintained stoutly that writing was not her *forte*, that she was a woman of action, not of words, which was probably true. Anyway she did promise us a contribution and sent *Some Thoughts about Early Training*, a great help to the *Parents' Review*. She took a most active interest in the magazine (*Parents' Review*), making it known widely among her friends and subscribing for a dozen copies for a year. Miss Clough early consented to be a member of the Council of the P.N.E.U., and she took the office seriously, going carefully into every question that was brought before her. My last recollection of the late Principal of Newnham is connected with a meeting of the Council held in the great hall of the College of Preceptors (through the kindness of the late Rev. R. H. Quick). She was known personally to only a few members of the Council, and there was a general buzz when she entered the hall of—"Who is that lady?" I felt it great promotion to do the honours of the occasion! Miss Clough not only *was* a personage of distinction, but she had the gift of looking what she was. In Cambridge, on ordinary occasions, if her dress was remarkable at all, it was so for its disregard of appearances, but this was an occasion which she honoured and she came to us exquisitely dressed in rich black silks, fashioned to suit her own dignified personality. This meeting of the Council was called for the final discussion of the Principles and Objects of the Parents' National Educational Union. Several leading educationalists, members of the Council, were present. The Rev. Canon Daniel, Rev. R. H. Quick, and the Rev. T. W. Sharpe, H.M.I., Miss Shirreff, I think, Miss Buss, Mrs. Steinthal, etc. The debate was long and earnest; Miss Clough took part in the discussion upon every clause, and the result of the meeting was the Principles and Objects of the P.N.E.U. in their present and final form. Thus Miss Clough was intimately connected with a Society, which can hardly fail to have a marked effect upon the future of our country, from its first inception to its organic maturity, and the P.N.E.U. is among the advanced and far-reaching educational movements with which her name may ever be associated.

(Signed) C. M. MASON.

BOOKS.

Stray Studies from England and Italy, by J. R. Green (Macmillan & Co., 5/-). These stray studies from an artist in prose and a past master in history are exceedingly delightful reading. The *Florence of Dante* is a study from a point of view that affords us quite new insight. The *Chronicle* of Dino Campagni gives the story of the struggle of Florence into freedom. "The name of Dante is mentioned but once, and then without a syllable of comment. It is not in Dante that Dino interests himself. His one interest, his one passion, is Florence." And yet, through Dino, and in some degree, through Mr. Green's interpretation of Dino, we arrive, as it were, at the sources of Dante's inspiration. Equally interesting is the study of Venice and Tintoretto, of Oxford, of Lambeth, and of Capri. Each of the studies has an interest and charm quite its own.

The Conduct of Life and Society and Solitude, by Emerson (Macmillan & Co., 6/-). Lovers of Emerson will be glad to see this delightful edition of a favourite work. Type and spacing are very attractive; as for the matter, we all know how eloquence, worship, clubs, success, behaviour, all that belongs to the conduct of life, is revealed to us in a new and vivid light when Emerson holds the lamp. He is very commonly the favourite author of thoughtful young people; he gives them their initiation to philosophic thought.

Helps to Make Ideals Real, by Mrs. A. R. Simpson (Oliphant, Anderson, & Ferrier). We have to thank Mrs. Simpson for her helpful and suggestive chapters. They are dedicated to the *World's Student Christian Federation*. There are few young people, students or others, who would not find here a word to quicken the longing for the ideal. We must quote a most suggestive passage from Mrs. Simpson's title page—"Teacher, I find that since I have imbibed the teachings of the New Testament I can look beyond the mean gains of this life. I suppose the reason why English artists put so much perspective into their drawings is because Christianity has given them a future, and the reason why oriental artists fail to do so is because Buddha and Confucius do not raise the eye above the present."—Japanese Art Student.

Tales and Sketches of Modern Greece, by Neil Wynn Williams (Nutt, 1/6). Mr. Wynn Williams appears to us to break new ground in his *Tales and Sketches of Modern Greece*. It appears to us that many Greek characteristics are happily touched. The flowing periods, the dramatic gestures, the curious craving for the fame that comes of smart writing in a newspaper; all this with the stir and gaiety of modern Greek life, and the bandying of old Greek names, Xenophon, Aristides, and the rest, give charm to these tales.

The Foundation of Success: A Plea for Rational Education, by S. De Brath (Philip & Son, 3/6). Mr. S. De Brath's book deserves the

consideration of parents. He touches upon evils which we all deplore. The remedies he suggests rest upon sound educational principles. How far he is right in the minor details he suggests remains to be proved, but his main contention has been our own.

The Land o' the Leal, by D. Lyall (Hodder and Stoughton, 6/-). Scotland is inexhaustible. For a long time it was supposed apparently that the "Wizard of the North" had drained her resources, but lately we have had a great crop of Scotch stories by new men on new lines, and all interesting. The title is a little misleading. Scotland is intended for the *The Land o' the Leal*, and here we have a number of very pleasant stories of village life, tales of people who have their own charm, though they are not cast in the heroic mould of the folk of Drumtochty.

Ireland, the Children's Study Series, by O'Brien (Fisher Unwin, 2/6). "I drew down upon myself their surprise, nay, almost contempt, when I first came among them, when I confessed I had never heard of Dungannon Castle and Hugh O'Neil"—"they" being Irish children, shocked at the ignorance of an English governess. Mr. Barry O'Brien has done much to remedy this pretty general ignorance on the subject of Irish history. He has given us a well-written, well-conceived sketch on the plan of grouping the facts of a period, as far as possible, around some central figure. The strain of the relations of England with the "distressful country" is pretty evident throughout, but the little volume is fairly and brightly written, and should be used in the education of English, as well as of Irish children.

Moab, Ammon, and Gilead, by A. H. Percy (Simpkin & Marshall, 6/-). The dedication of this volume is worth pondering. "To my loving Mother, to whom I owe all my early instruction in the Bible." We wonder have young people of the present day the same keen interest in Bible lands with which an earlier generation grew up? To those who have, Mr. Percy's volume with its capital maps and photographs, clear descriptions, and bright narrative, will be a treasure trove.

Cranford, by Mrs. Gaskell (Bliss, Sands & Co.) Messrs. Bliss, Sands and Co. have given us a great treat in this edition of *Cranford*, with pictures worthy of the best days of book illustration. Mr. T. H. Robinson has caught the feeling of Cranford; Mr. Mulliner carrying light refreshments, Carlo begging, Captain Brown and Miss Betty Barker's cow, Martha staring at the East Indian, Peter among the ladies—everyone is a gem, almost worthy of Cruickshank. The edition is very pretty with good readable type, well spaced, and as for the story itself, if anyone does not know Cranford, that person is to be envied—he has a delight in store. It is a pity that the misprint, loin for lion, should have been repeated; a pretty little touch is lost.

Good Reading about Books, mostly by their Authors (Fisher Unwin). Mr. Fisher Unwin has improved upon his volume of last year. The good reading seems even better, there is more of it and the get-up of the little book is improved. The portraits of the authors is an interesting feature. We think Mr. Unwin's new departure should be followed by other publishers. Let the reviewers say their say in the press and the authors themselves tell us about their books in their publisher's annual.

We have received from the Religious Tract Society—

The Boy's Own Annual for 1896 (8/-), with the usual wealth of illustrations and wonderful variety of matter. The Boy's Own Paper has especially attractive diagrams and instructions for a boy-carpenter, a beautifully coloured sheet of British butterflies, and capital stories.

The Girl's Own Annual, 1896 (8/-), has charming studies of plant life by Mrs. Brightwen, a capital and very useful tale for girls by Mrs. Everett-Green, and some really beautiful illustrations, the Market Place, Wells, being among the best. The *Girl's Own Annual* seems to us to have outdone itself this year.

The Child's Companion and *Our Little Dots* are both charming for the ages of their respective readers. *Our Little Dots* should be a great favourite in the nursery.

Teddy's Button (1/-) is a charming story of a little laddie whose incentive to all courage and goodness was a button on his jacket, the only relic of his soldier father.

The Luor of Fame, by Clive Holland (Bellairs & Co., 3/6). A simply told story full of graphic pictures of Norwegian life and scenery. The teaching is sound and wholesome, if possibly a little severe.

A Mystery of the Cordilleras, by A. M. Bourne (Bellairs & Co., 3/6). A well-told tale with capital pictures.

OUR WORK.

Natural History Club.—The Exhibition was held on November 20th and 21st, at 50, Porchester Terrace (by kind permission of E. A. Franklin, Esq.), and proved a great success. There were a great number of exhibits, including collections of shells, dried flowers, ferns, fossils, feathers, &c., brush drawings, and other objects of interest. The Annual Report (price 4d.) will be issued in January. The committee have decided, for next year, to discontinue the *Geology* course, and to substitute for the course—*Lessons from our Walks*—a series of letters, entitled: "*Natural History Lessons in House, Garden, and Field*." The *Junior Botany* course will be continued. The amount of annual subscription for this and the new Natural History course will be 10/-. The matter comprised in each letter will, in future, be condensed into a smaller space, while the lessons will be amplified by the use of a reading book. Courses of letters already issued may also be had at the same reduced fee. Apply to the Secretary, P.N.E.U., 28, Victoria Street.

House of Education.—We begin work January 16th. We already feel the great value of the second year's training. The students go to their posts with more power and purpose than ever.

Parents' Review School.—We gather that the last year's work in the *Parents' Review School* has been extremely satisfactory. Parents should recognise that the questions are set, not only to find out what the children know, but to shew the lines on which the teaching should be carried on. One lady thinks it not fair to ask what children have observed about spiders, because not every child has the gift or the